

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-30 (cancelled).

31 (currently amended). A coated chewing gum comprising a core of chewing gum and a coating, wherein said coating comprises one or more coating materials and one or more flavor(s), said flavor(s) being in the form of a powder when applied to the coating and at least one flavor is ~~(a) an encapsulated flavor,~~ ~~(b) a natural vegetable flavoring agent comprising intact cells of a dried fruit or herb,~~ or (c) both (a) and (b) above.

32 (currently amended, withdrawn). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the ~~flavors are each both an encapsulated flavor and a natural vegetable flavoring agent~~ comprises an encapsulated natural vegetable flavor.

33 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent has a water content of less than 75% by weight.

34 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~33~~ 55, wherein the water content of the natural vegetable flavoring agent is less than 15% by weight.

35 (cancelled).

36 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent was extracted from one or more vegetables each selected from the group consisting of a coconut, a grape fruit, an orange, a lime, a lemon, a mandarin, a pineapple, a strawberry, a raspberry, a mango, a passion fruit, a kiwi, an apple, a pear, a peach, an apricot, a cherry, a grape, a banana, a cranberry, a blueberry, a black currant, a red currant, a gooseberry, a lingonberry, thyme, a basil, a valerian, a fennel, a parsley, a camomile, a tarragon, a lavender, a dill, a cumin, a bergamot, a sage, an aloe vera, a spearmint, a peppermint, and an

eucalyptus.

37 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent has been freeze-dried.

38 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent is in the form of a powder, said powder comprising a particle having a particle size of at most 3 mm, calculated as the longest dimension of the particle.

39 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein ~~the natural vegetable flavoring agent is in the form of a powder,~~ said powder consists essentially of ~~comprising a particles~~ having a particle size from 3 μ m to 2 mm, calculated as the longest dimension of the particle.

40 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent comprises seed from a fruit, ~~and which seeds are substantially intact.~~

41 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the natural vegetable flavoring agent also provides the gum formulation with natural color.

42 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the coating furthermore comprises a flavor selected from the group consisting of peppermint, periwinkle, eucalyptus, spearmint, anethol, menthol, powdered anise, orange, lemon, mango, pineapple, lime, strawberry, cherry, black currant, blueberry, raspberry, wild berry, cranberry, apple, pear, banana, prune, and plum flavor.

43 (currently amended, withdrawn). The ~~coated chewing gum~~ of claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein at least one flavor is encapsulated and the encapsulation of the encapsulated flavor comprises at least one encapsulation agent, each encapsulation agent being selected from the group consisting of fatty substances, waxes, gelatin, gum arabic, starch, cellulose, cellulose derivatives, shellac,

polyvinyl acetate (PVA), polyethylene (PE), casein, zein, B cyclodextrine, silica, yeast cells, hydrogenated soy bean, cottonseed, coconut, sunflower, palm kernel, rapeseed, ricinus oil, bees' wax, candelilla wax, carnauba wax, paraffin wax, and polyethylene wax.

44 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum~~ method of claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the coating furthermore comprises an active substance selected from group consisting of a high potency sweetener and an acid.

45 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum~~ method according to claim 44, wherein said active substance is in the form of a powder when applied to the coating.

46 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum~~ method according to claim 44, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of a citric acid, a malic acid, a tartaric acid, a lactic acid, and an ascorbic acid.

47 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum~~ method according to claim 44, wherein the high potency sweetener is selected from the group consisting of aspartame, acesulfame K, saccharin, cyclamate, neohesiridine, thaumatin, glycyrrhizin, monellin, sucrolase, and alitame.

48 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum~~ method according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the coating furthermore comprises at least one functional substance, each selected from the group consisting of vitamins, cooling agents and flavor enhancers.

49 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum~~ method according to claim 48, wherein the functional substance is in the form of a powder when applied to the coating.

50 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum~~ method according to claim 44, wherein the active substance is in an encapsulated form when applied to the coating.

51 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum~~ method according to claim ~~44~~ 50, wherein the encapsulated active substance is encapsulated in one or more material(s) each

selected from the group consisting of fatty substances, waxes, gelatine, gum arabic, starch, cellulose, cellulose derivatives, shellac, polyvinyl acetate, polyethylene, casein, zein, B cyclodextrine, silica, and yeast cells.

52 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the coating furthermore comprises one or more active substances(s), incorporated into the coating while in liquid form, said active substances each being selected from the group consisting of a flavor, a high potency sweetener and an acid.

53 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim ~~31~~ 55, wherein the coating furthermore comprises at least one salt.

54 (currently amended). The ~~coated chewing gum method~~ according to claim 53, wherein each salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, ammonium chloride, sodium bicarbonate, and carbamide.

55 (currently amended). A method of preparing a coated chewing gum ~~according to claim 31~~, the method comprising the following steps:

- ~~1) preparing of a core of chewing gum,~~
- ~~2) preparing of a coating suspension,~~
- 1) providing a core of chewing gum, a coating suspension, and a natural vegetable flavoring agent in the form of a dry powder, where said natural vegetable flavoring agent is a powder of a dried fruit or a dried herb,
- ~~3) 2)~~ applying of the coating suspension onto the cores of chewing gum,
- ~~4) 3)~~ applying, in one or more increment(s), at least one said natural vegetable flavoring agent flavor onto the coated cores of chewing gum resulting from step ~~2) 3)~~, ~~said flavor being (a) an encapsulated flavor, (b) a natural vegetable flavoring agent, or (c) both (a) and (b) above,~~ said flavor being in the form of a powder when

~~being applied to cores of chewing gum resulting from step 3) said agent being and remaining in the form of a powder throughout said applying step, and optionally repeating steps 2) and 3) and 4),~~

- ~~5) optionally, application of one or more liquid active substance(s) in one or more increment(s) between the applications of the coating suspension,~~
- ~~6) optionally, application of a polishing suspension.~~

56 (previously presented). The method according to claim 55, wherein the coating suspension comprises an aqueous solution, said aqueous solution comprising a component selected from the group consisting of a sugar, a sugar alcohol, an artificial sweetener or a mixture thereof.

57 (previously presented). The method according to claim 55, wherein the coating suspension comprises an aqueous solution of one or more constituent(s) selected from the group consisting of saccharose, dextrose, sorbitol, xylitol, tagatose, mannitol, maltitol, isomalt, aspartame, acesulfame K, saccharine, cyclamate, taline, and neohesperidine.

58 (previously presented). The method according to claim 55, wherein the coating suspension is applied in 2 to 90 increments.

59 (currently amended). The method according to claim 55, wherein the ~~flavor~~ flavoring agent is applied to the coating in 1 to 10 increment(s) between the dosages of the coating suspension.

60 (new). The method of claim 55 wherein, during step 3), the natural vegetable flavoring agent is embedded, in the coating, in solid form.